Deaths

There were 24,417 resident deaths recorded for Kansas in 2003, a decrease of 2.2 percent from the 2002 total of 24,968. (Table 30)

Elk, Republic and Comanche counties had the highest five-year (1999-2003) county death rates of 18.5, 18.4, and 18.1 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. Riley, Douglas, and Finney counties had the lowest five-year death rates of 5.0, 5.3, and 5.3 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. (Table 30, Figure 26)

Belleville, Eureka, and Fredonia had the highest five-year city death rates (1999-2003) of 28.2, 22.2, and 19.7 respectively. Olathe, Lawrence, and Shawnee experienced the lowest five-year city death rates of 4.7, 4.8, and 5.2 respectively. (Table 31)

The Kansas death rate in 2003 was 9.0 deaths per 1,000 population, which was 5.9 percent higher than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.5 deaths per 1,000 population. (Figure 27)

Of all stillbirths in 2003, 71.8 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 17.8 percent were attributed to symptoms, signs and abnormal findings and 9.7 percent to congenital anomalies. (Table 32)

Examining the components that constitute perinatal period III mortality, the numbers of stillbirths and hebdomadal deaths declined 45.6 percent and 61.0 percent respectively from 1974 to 2003. Caution should be used in interpreting these decreases due to the relatively small number of occurrences. In 2003, there were 344 perinatal period III deaths, representing a death rate of 8.7 deaths per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths. This rate has decreased 60.8 percent from the 1974 rate of 22.2. (Table 33 and Table 34, Figure 28)

A total of 262 infant deaths occurred to Kansas residents in 2003. The overall infant death rate for 2003 was 6.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. For comparison, the 2003 rate (6.7) represents a decrease of 57.3 percent from the rate of 15.7 in 1974. The white infant death rate was 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003, a decrease of 59.2 percent from the rate of 15.2 in 1974. The black infant death rate in 2003 was 14.5, a decrease of 38.3 percent from the rate of 23.5 in 1974. (Figure 29, Table 35 and Table 36)

During the five-year period, 1999-2003, the infant death rate for Kansas was 7.0. Lane county had the highest infant death rate (21.7) during this time period. Of those counties reporting infant deaths, Nemaha county had the lowest rate (1.5). Eighteen counties had no infant deaths. (Table 36)

Of all infant deaths in 2003, 51.2 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 19.8 percent were attributed to congenital anomalies, 12.6 percent to sudden infant death syndrome and 16.4 percent to all other causes. (Table 37)

Deaths (Cont.)

For each year from 1991 to 2002 there were five or fewer maternal deaths among Kansas residents. In 2003, for the first time in recorded history, there were no maternal deaths to Kansas residents. (Figure 31)

The Kansas age-adjusted death rate per 1,000 standard U.S. 2000 population was consistently below that of the U.S. from 1994-2002. (Table 40, Figure 32)

The state's 2003 age-adjusted death rate for males (9.7) was 38.6 percent higher than the rate of 7.0 for females. (Table 40)

The average age at death of Kansas residents in 2003 was 74.5 years, a 3.8 percent increase from the average age at death of 71.8 years in 1984. (Table 41)

The average age at death for the white population in 2003 was 75.2 years, eleven years older than that of the black population, whose average age at death was 64.0 years. (Table 42)

The two leading causes of death in Kansas in 2003, heart disease and malignant neoplasms, had average ages at death of 79.9 and 71.7 years respectively. Atherosclerosis, with an average age at death of 86.4 years, had the highest average age at death of any of the leading causes of death. (Table 45)

The average age at death for male unintentional injury victims for 1994 and 2003 was 45.1 and 47.3 respectively, while for females the average age was 56.9 and 57.8 years respectively. For this time period, the average age at death increased for female unintentional injury victims 1.6 percent while for male unintentional injury victims it increased 4.9 percent. (Table 45)

The cause-specific death rate for Alzheimer's Disease in Kansas was 28.7 deaths per 100,000 population in 2003. The rate for females (40.1) was more than twice as high as the rate for males (17.2). (Table 45)

The cancer death rate for 2003 was 194.1 deaths per 100,000 population, 7.0 percent lower than the rate of 208.7 in 1994. (Table 45 and Table 46)

In 2003, the unintentional injury death rate was 39.5 deaths per 100,000 population, 6.8 percent higher than the rate of 37.0 in 1994. (Table 45 and Table 46)

The age-adjusted death rate for the leading cause of death, heart disease, was 210.3, and for cancer, the second leading cause of death, the age-adjusted death rate was 184.5 per 100,000 standard U.S. 2000 population. Together, these two causes accounted for almost 50 percent of all Kansas resident deaths. (Table 46)

Deaths (Cont.)

Heart disease reached a high of 393.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1973 and gradually declined to 236.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2003. Conversely, cancer rates steadily increased from 140.6 to 207.1 deaths per 100,000 population from 1956 to 1996, but have declined since 1996, to 194.1 in 2003. (Figure 33)

In 2003, Kansans died from cerebrovascular disease at slightly more than half the rate of forty years ago, with the death rates for this disease going from 123.5 in 1964 to 64.2 in 2003. The death rate for unintentional injury also declined, going from 59.9 in 1964 to 39.5 in 2003, a 34.1 percent decrease. (Figure 33)

In 2003, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Kansas residents 1-44 years of age. (Figure 34)

In 2003, cancer of the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, digestive organs and breast were the leading causes of cancer deaths in women. (Table 48)

The dominant occupations for deaths due to unintentional injuries, suicides, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis and homicides were operators, fabricators and laborers. (Table 52)

Mortality in Kansas was responsible for 191,819 years of potential life lost in 2003. Cancer was the second leading cause of death in Kansas, but accounted for the most years of potential life lost (42,703). Unintentional injuries represented nearly two times the years of potential life lost among men (19,587 years) compared to women (9,850 years). (Table 54, Figure 35)